

# MICHIGAN WATERFOWL HUNTING DIGEST

2013–2014 SEASONS



[www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting)



## Important Changes for 2013:

- The daily bag limit of canvasbacks has increased from one to two.
- The daily bag limit of scaup has decreased from four to three.
- Possession limits for ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, geese, snipe and rails have increased to three times the daily limit.

## Seasons and Daily Limits

ZONE/SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (all dates inclusive)	BAG LIMITS DAILY POSSESSION		NOTES
NORTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Sept. 21 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	6	18	a,b
COOTS	Sept. 21 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	15	45	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-10	5	15	c
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Sept. 11 - Dec. 11	2	6	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Sept. 11 - Dec. 11 Sept. 11 - Dec. 7	20 1	60 3	
MIDDLE ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Oct. 5 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 14 - 15	6	18	a, b
COOTS	Oct. 5 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 14 - 15	15	45	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-15	5	15	c
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Sept. 21-29; Oct. 5 – Dec. 26	2	6	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Sept. 21-29 and Oct. 5 - Dec. 26 Oct. 5 - Dec. 26	20 1	60 3	
SOUTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and Dec. 28 - 29	6	18	a, b
COOTS	Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and Dec. 28 - 29	15	45	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON (except counties below)	Sept. 1-15	5	15	c
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON (Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties only)	Sept. 1-10	5	15	c
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON (excluding GMUs below)	Sept. 21-23; Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and Dec. 28-29	2	6	
GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNITS ALLEGAN COUNTY GMU	Nov. 2 – Jan. 31, 2014	2	6	
MUSKEGON WASTEWATER GMU	Oct. 16 - Nov. 13 and Dec. 1-22	2	6	
SAGINAW COUNTY GMU	Sept. 21-23; Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and Dec. 28 - Jan. 27, 2014	2	6	
TUSCOLA/HURON GMU	Sept. 21-27; Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and Dec. 28 - Jan. 23, 2014	2	6	
CANADA GEESE LATE SEASON (excluding GMUs)	Jan. 18 - Feb. 15, 2014	5	15	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS (excluding GMUs)	Oct. 12 – Dec. 8; Dec. 28-29 and Jan. 18 - Feb. 15, 2014	20	60	
WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Oct. 12 - Dec. 8; Dec. 28-29; and Jan. 18-31, 2014	1	3	
STATEWIDE				
COMMON SNIFE	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	8	24	b
VIRGINIA RAIL and SORA RAIL	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	25	75	b
MOORHENS (GALLINULES)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	1	3	b

Notes/Exceptions:

(a) See the Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers section. The merganser daily limit is in addition to the duck daily limit.

(b) See the Youth Waterfowl/Weekend section for requirements.

(c) See the 2013 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest for details on early goose season in state parks and recreation areas.

## Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers

The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black duck and 2 canvasbacks. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for ducks and mergansers.

## Waterfowl Stamp Program

The Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA) coordinates the Michigan waterfowl stamp program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to fund MDHA projects, with 10 percent used to match DNR funding for purchasing wetlands. To learn more about the waterfowl stamp program and how you can support conservation efforts in Michigan through the purchase of collector's edition waterfowl stamps and prints, please visit [www.midha.org](http://www.midha.org).

The 2013 Michigan duck stamp features a black duck displayed in a swimming pose painted by Richard Clifton (see digest cover). Purchase of these collector-edition stamps is voluntary and does not replace the state waterfowl hunting license. MDHA will mail waterfowl hunters a free copy of the stamp (subject to availability) if they send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a copy of their Michigan waterfowl hunting license to: MDHA Waterfowl Stamp Program, P.O. Box 150276, Grand Rapids, MI 49515.

## Youth Waterfowl Weekend

Youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be Sept. 14-15, 2013 statewide for properly licensed youth ages 15 and younger. The daily limit includes ducks, mergansers, geese, coots and moorhens. An adult 18 years of age must accompany any youth hunter ages 10 to 15 into the field. Youth hunters 9 years old and younger must be licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program and accompanied by a qualified mentor who is at least 21 years old and has a valid hunting license. The adult will not be allowed to hunt ducks, mergansers, coots or moorhens and will not be required to have a waterfowl hunting license. For more information on the Mentored Youth Hunting Program go to [www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting](http://www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting) or see the 2013 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular season. Daily shooting hours are listed in the Hunting Hours Table in this digest.

## Proposed 2014 and 2015 Opening Dates

To help hunters plan for upcoming duck hunting seasons, following are the proposed duck season opening dates for 2014 and 2015, ONLY if federal frameworks do not change. Final season dates will not be set until the summer prior to that year's duck season.

Zone	2014 Duck Season Opening Day	2015 Duck Season Opening Day
North	September 27	September 26
Middle	October 4	October 3
South	October 11	October 10

**NOTICE:** This brochure is not a legal notice, nor a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. The legal Wildlife Conservation Orders can be obtained from the following website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws).

## License and Waterfowl Stamp Requirements

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Michigan you must have a small game hunting license or, for youth 9 years old and younger, a mentored youth license. For more information on the Mentored Youth Hunting Program go to [www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting](http://www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting). Those age 16 and older also must have a **Michigan waterfowl hunting license (\$5)** and a **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp\* (\$15)**. The HIP endorsement (see HIP information in this digest) is required for all those hunting migratory birds.

\*The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp must be signed with your name across the face in ink. It is available at post offices and some Michigan license agents. All other items are available from license agents or online at: [www.mdnr-elicense.com](http://www.mdnr-elicense.com).

### License options (only one required):

- Mentored youth license (9 yrs. old and younger) \$7.50
- Junior small game license (10-16 yrs. old) \$1.00
- Resident small game license (17-64 yrs. old) \$15.00
- Resident senior small game license (65+ yrs. old) \$6.00

The licenses above are not required for a resident, resident's spouse or resident's children to hunt on enclosed farmland on which they live, except a Michigan waterfowl hunting license and a federal migratory bird hunting stamp are required to hunt waterfowl.

- Nonresident small game license (17+ yrs. old) \$69.00
- Nonresident three-day small game license \$30.00

Nonresidents under age 17 may purchase resident licenses.

## Apprentice License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is **10 years of age or older** may purchase an apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices between ages 10-16, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "Accompanied by" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

For hunting waterfowl, the accompanying hunter needs the appropriate 2013 small game hunting license. **A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.**

## Hunt & Win

Michigan's Wetland Wonders Challenge!

**Hunt Michigan's Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas and the ULTIMATE waterfowl hunting prize package could be yours!**

For contest rules, dates and prize package information visit [www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders)

**Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders!**

Help Build Tomorrow's...

### Michigan Waterfowl Legacy

A ten-year cooperative partnership to restore, conserve and celebrate Michigan's waterfowl, wetlands, and waterfowl hunting community.



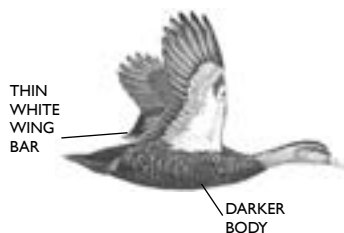
[www.michigan.gov/mwl](http://www.michigan.gov/mwl)

# Identifying Ducks

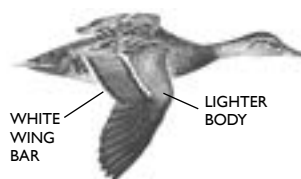
Skill at identifying ducks in flight is important to limit harvest of less numerous duck species. Species with special restrictions are as follows:

**Mallard Hen/Black Duck** - Both are restricted to one per day within the overall six-bird daily limit. Both birds have white underwings, but the black duck's darker body contrasts more sharply with the underwing than does the brown body of the female mallard. Mallards have white wing bars on both edges of the blue speculum. The black duck usually has none or only a thin white bar on the back edge of the speculum.

## BLACK DUCK



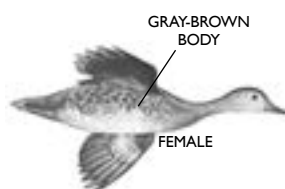
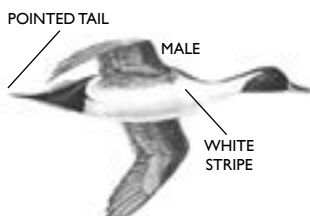
## MALLARD HEN



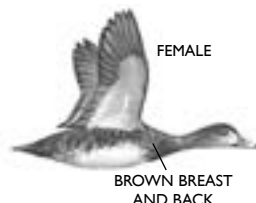
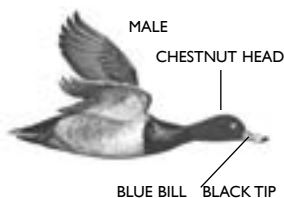
**Wood Duck** - Three per day may be harvested. This medium-sized duck frequents wooded ponds, streams and marshes statewide, especially early in the season. Drakes are very colorful, and hens and drakes have colorful wings with blue, maroon and silver hues. Calls are whistles and squeals.



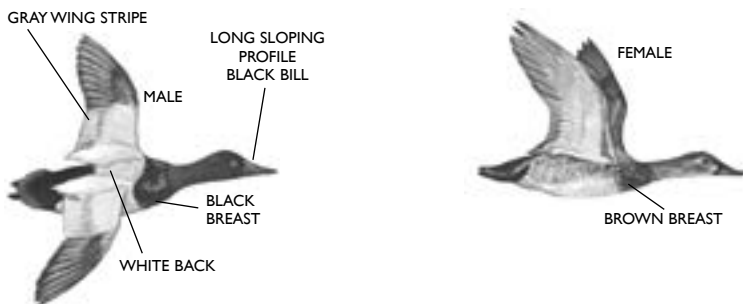
**Pintail** - Two pintails may be harvested per day during the 60-day open season. Pintails are puddle ducks that frequent marshes. They are about the size of a mallard but slimmer in appearance. Few are well-colored before December, and most appear gray. The female wing speculum is cinnamon-colored, while the male wing speculum is green with a white trailing edge.



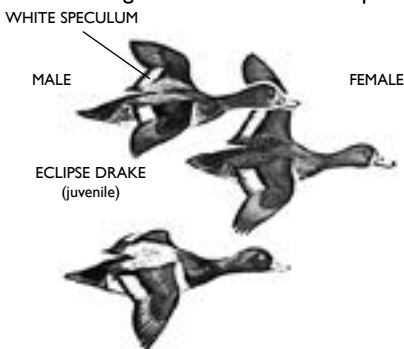
**Redhead** - Two per day may be harvested. This large diving duck has the shape of a mallard but is more uniformly brown or gray, with an unmarked gray wing speculum. Well-colored males have a chestnut red head. This bird frequents the open waters of large and small lakes, like the canvasback.



**Canvasback** - Two canvasbacks may be harvested per day during the 60-day open season. This large, mallard-sized diving duck has a characteristic wedge-shaped head and is usually found on the open waters of large and small lakes. Well-colored males have a red head.



**Scaup** - Three scaup per day may be harvested during the 60-day open season. These birds are medium-to-small diving ducks. Greater and lesser scaup (bluebill) appear nearly identical in the field; however the white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about halfway in the lesser.

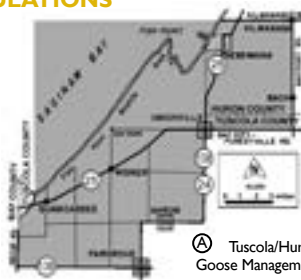


## GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNIT REGULATIONS



### © Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit

Oct. 16 - Nov. 13  
and Dec. 1-22  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese  
Hunts only Wednesdays (a.m.)  
and Sundays (a.m. and p.m.)  
during the season



### A Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit

Sept. 21-27, Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and  
Dec. 28 - Jan. 23, 2014  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese

### D Allegan County Goose Management Unit

Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2014  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



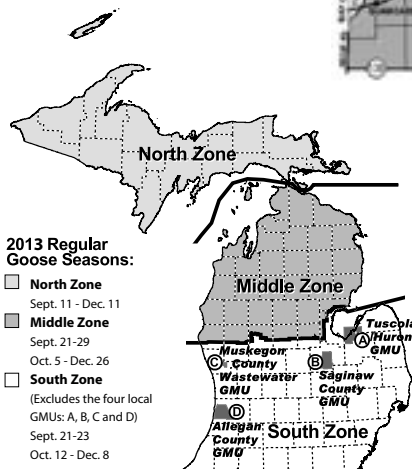
### 2013 Regular Goose Seasons:

- North Zone  
Sept. 11 - Dec. 11
- Middle Zone  
Sept. 21-29  
Oct. 5 - Dec. 26
- South Zone  
(Excludes the four local GMUs: A, B, C and D)  
Sept. 21-23  
Oct. 12 - Dec. 8  
Dec. 28-29

Local Goose Management Units (GMUs) A, B, C and D have different hunt dates and season lengths.

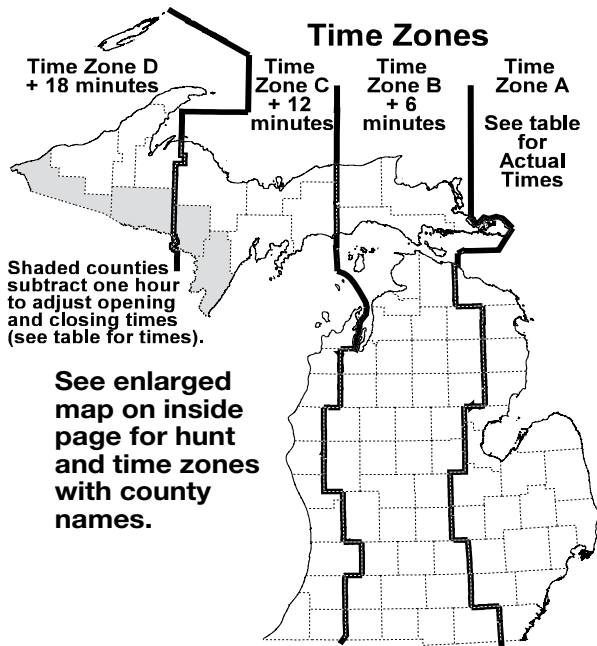
For specifics, see inset maps for each GMU, shown around this map.

For detailed descriptions of zone boundaries, contact a DNR Customer Service Center or go online to [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws).



### B Saginaw County Goose Management Unit

Sept. 21-23, Oct. 12 - Dec. 8 and  
Dec. 28 - Jan. 27, 2014  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



## Zone A. Hunting Hours Table.

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time).

	2013								2014			
	September		October		November		December		January		February	
Date	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	6:28	8:06	7:00	7:13	7:36	6:25	7:12	5:01	7:32	5:11	7:16	5:46
2	6:29	8:04	7:01	7:12	7:37	6:24	7:13	5:00	7:32	5:11	7:15	5:48
3	6:30	8:03	7:02	7:10	6:39	5:23	7:14	5:00	7:32	5:12	7:14	5:49
4	6:31	8:01	7:03	7:08	6:40	5:22	7:15	5:00	7:32	5:13	7:13	5:50
5	6:32	7:59	7:04	7:06	6:41	5:20	7:16	5:00	7:32	5:14	7:12	5:52
6	6:33	7:57	7:05	7:05	6:42	5:19	7:17	5:00	7:32	5:15	7:10	5:53
7	6:34	7:56	7:06	7:03	6:44	5:18	7:18	5:00	7:31	5:16	7:09	5:54
8	6:35	7:54	7:08	7:01	6:45	5:17	7:19	5:00	7:31	5:17	7:08	5:56
9	6:36	7:52	7:09	7:00	6:46	5:16	7:20	5:00	7:31	5:18	7:07	5:57
10	6:37	7:50	7:10	6:58	6:47	5:15	7:21	5:00	7:31	5:19	7:05	5:58
11	6:38	7:49	7:11	6:56	6:49	5:14	7:22	5:00	7:31	5:20	7:04	6:00
12	6:39	7:47	7:12	6:55	6:50	5:13	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:22	7:03	6:01
13	6:40	7:45	7:13	6:53	6:51	5:12	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:23	7:02	6:02
14	6:41	7:43	7:14	6:52	6:52	5:11	7:24	5:00	7:29	5:24	7:00	
15	6:43	7:42	7:16	6:50	6:54	5:10	7:25	5:01	7:29	5:25	6:59	
16	6:44	7:40	7:17	6:48	6:55	5:09	7:25	5:01	7:28	5:26	6:57	
17	6:45	7:38	7:18	6:47	6:56	5:08	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:27	6:56	
18	6:46	7:36	7:19	6:45	6:57	5:08	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:29	6:55	
19	6:47	7:34	7:20	6:44	6:58	5:07	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:30	6:53	
20	6:48	7:33	7:21	6:42	7:00	5:06	7:28	5:02	7:26	5:31	6:52	
21	6:49	7:31	7:23	6:41	7:01	5:05	7:28	5:03	7:26	5:32	6:50	
22	6:50	7:29	7:24	6:39	7:02	5:05	7:29	5:03	7:25	5:34	6:49	
23	6:51	7:27	7:25	6:38	7:03	5:04	7:29	5:04	7:24	5:35	6:47	
24	6:52	7:26	7:26	6:36	7:04	5:04	7:30	5:05	7:23	5:36	6:46	
25	6:53	7:24	7:27	6:35	7:06	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:22	5:37	6:44	
26	6:54	7:22	7:29	6:33	7:07	5:03	7:30	5:06	7:22	5:39	6:42	
27	6:55	7:20	7:30	6:32	7:08	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:21	5:40	6:41	
28	6:56	7:19	7:31	6:31	7:09	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:20	5:41	6:39	
29	6:58	7:17	7:32	6:29	7:10	5:01	7:31	5:08	7:19	5:43		
30	6:59	7:15	7:34	6:28	7:11	5:01	7:31	5:09	7:18	5:44		
31			7:35	6:27			7:32	5:10	7:17	5:45		

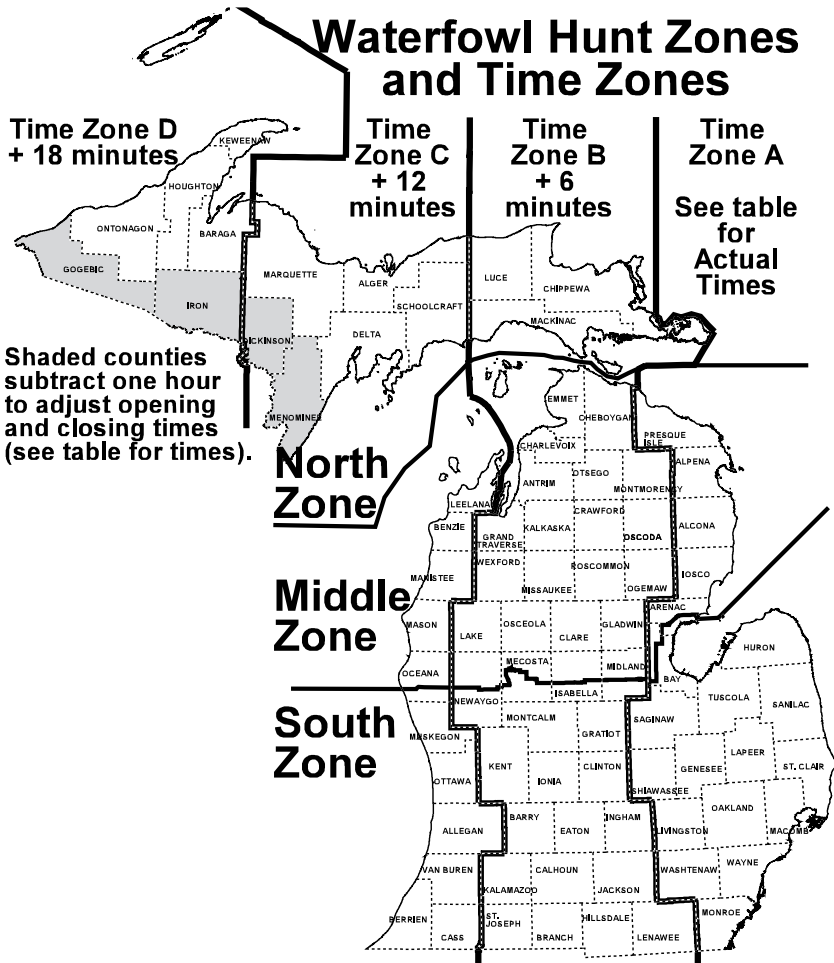
## Hunting Zones and Shooting Hours

Michigan's North Zone for waterfowl (duck, coot, moorhen and goose) hunting includes all of the Upper Peninsula (see map below). The Middle Zone consists of the north half of the Lower Peninsula. The remainder of the Lower Peninsula is called the South Zone. Note: The late Canada goose season takes place only in the South Zone.

The exact dividing line between the Middle and South Zones is described as follows: a line beginning at the Wisconsin border in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, east along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, east along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, north along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, east along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the AuGres River, then southerly along the centerline of the AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.

Below is the map with waterfowl (duck, coot, moorhen and goose) hunting zones and all four of Michigan's waterfowling time zones. If hunting in **Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson** or **Menominee** counties that are on Central Time, you must adjust the listed times to Central Time.

**Add the minutes indicated below to the times listed in Zone A table on last page of this digest for the correct shooting and hawking hours in Zones B, C and D.**





## Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas

Permits are issued at several managed areas through drawings held at area check stations. A \$4 daily or \$13 annual permit fee is charged for use of areas with (Fee) shown below. Permits can be purchased at check stations. The annual \$13 permit is accepted at all state areas. Some early-season hunts are by reservation. Each year, hunters may apply for one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area from Aug. 1-28 at [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings) or at license agents. Special rules are enforced, including shell limits, shot size limits, hunting party size, etc. Maps listing the special rules are available at the area check stations. Normal managed-area drawings may be cancelled late in the season if extreme weather results in low hunter participation. Area managers will post amended check station hunting rules a minimum of two days prior to any changes. Late in the season, hunters may wish to call area headquarters to verify that drawings will be held. Use of waders, decoys, calls, retrievers (except Allegan) and small boats and motors is recommended. See below for additional details. For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders).

Area	County and Nearest Town	Telephone Number	Drawing Time (Reserved Hunting Dates)	Youth Hunting Dates <sup>a</sup>
FENVILLE FARM	Allegan, Fennville	(269) 561-2258	Drawings for select days during Allegan County GMU season are at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for morning hunts; and 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for afternoon hunts. There will only be a 5:30 a.m. drawing on Thursday, Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving Day). The Farm Unit will be closed on Dec. 25. Drawings on Dec. 28 are at 5:30 a.m. (open) and 11:00 a.m. (youth only).	Nov. 2 (a.m.) and Dec. 28 (p.m.) non-reserved
FISH POINT	Tuscola, Unionville	(989) 674-2511	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) <b>(Reservations opening weekend of duck season)</b>	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 2 (p.m.) non-reserved
MUSKEGON COUNTY WASTEWATER	Muskegon, Twin Lake	(231) 788-5055 <b>Call for opening date.</b>	Hunts only on Wednesdays (a.m.), and Sundays (a.m. and p.m.) during the season. Drawings to select hunt zones are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. There will be no hunting Nov. 15-30.	Oct. 27 (a.m. and p.m.) non-reserved
NAYANQUING POINT	Bay, Linwood	(989) 697-5101	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) and Oct. 26 (p.m.) non-reserved
POINT MOUILLEE	Monroe, Rockwood	(734) 379-9692	Open hunting each day of season on most of game area. Managed Hunting Area permits issued opening day and Sunday and Wednesday only thereafter. Drawings these days are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) and Nov. 10 (a.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE RIVER	Saginaw, St. Charles	(989) 865-6211	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:00 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) <b>(Reservations opening weekend of duck season)</b>	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 9 (p.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE FEDERAL REFUGE	Saginaw, Saginaw	(989) 777-5930	Drawings to select hunt zones at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts only. (Daily hunter charge is \$4) <b>(Reservations opening weekend of duck season)</b>	NONE
ST. CLAIR FLATS (HARSENS IS.)	St. Clair, Algonac	(810) 748-5904	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:30 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) <b>(Reservations opening weekend of duck season)</b>	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 8 (p.m.) non-reserved

<sup>a</sup> Youth Hunts: Priority drawings are available for hunting parties with at least one youth 16 years of age or younger and up to two adults (maximum party size is four). All youth participating in these priority hunts must be properly licensed to hunt. Youth hunters nine years old and younger must be accompanied by a qualified Mentored Youth Hunting Program mentor. Only parties including youth hunters will be allowed to hunt at Allegan and ONLY youth will be permitted to shoot during these hunts.

## Waterfowl Status

Ducks – Mid-continental duck populations saw a 6-percent decline from 2012 despite improved breeding ground conditions in the prairie pothole region. Most species numbers were similar to last year and over their long-term averages. However, 75 percent of Michigan's mallard harvest is from ducks produced in Michigan and Great Lakes states, and Michigan's mallard estimates are down this year. Michigan's spring wetland numbers were up 32 percent from 2012; rainfall throughout the spring and summer has filled wetland basins, and conditions look favorable entering the fall.

Canada Geese – Michigan's Canada goose harvest is primarily derived from three flocks, including resident giant Canada geese, the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) and the Southern James Bay Population (SJB). Michigan's resident Canada geese make up approximately 70 percent of the state's goose harvest and the population estimate was down from last year. The MVP and SJB flocks breed largely on Hudson Bay, Ontario and account for the majority of Michigan's migrant goose harvest. MVP and SJB numbers are stable and declining this year, respectively.

## Type E Botulism

Type E botulism is a disease that results when a toxin, produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, is ingested, causing paralysis. This disease has been associated with fish and water-bird die-offs on Lake Michigan in recent years. Intoxicated birds may be lethargic, have difficulty holding their head out of the water or be unable to fly. Waterfowl hunters in the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula should follow the precautions listed below:

## Precautions When Processing Waterfowl

- Harvest only waterfowl that act and look healthy.
- Wear rubber, plastic or disposable gloves while field dressing, skinning or butchering waterfowl.
- Remove and discard intestines soon after harvesting and avoid direct contact with the intestinal contents.
- Wash hands, utensils and work surfaces before and after handling any meat.
- Keep waterfowl cool (either with ice or refrigeration) below 45°F until butchered, then refrigerate or freeze.
- Cook waterfowl to an internal temperature of 165°F. Cooking may not destroy the botulism E toxin.

## Dioxin Advisory Information

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004 and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. Wild game that have been tested include deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. As a result, the MDCH advises that hunters and their families follow these recommendations related to waterfowl:

- Do not eat the skin of Canada goose or wood duck harvested in or near the floodplain of the Tittabawassee River downstream of Midland and in or near the floodplain of the Saginaw River. MDCH recommends that you remove the skin of waterfowl before cooking and discard the liver and other internal organs.

Additional information regarding dioxin, dioxin-like compounds and wild-game advisories for the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River floodplains, including a map of the area covered by these advisories, is available on the MDCH website at [www.michigan.gov/dioxin](http://www.michigan.gov/dioxin).

# Joint State-Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

**RESTRICTION**—No person shall take or attempt to take migratory game birds (including woodcock):

- With a trap, snare, net, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With any firearm except a 10-gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding no more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells shall be plugged with a one-piece filler; incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.
- With the use of any single-projectile shotshell. Bows and arrows, including crossbows, are legal for waterfowl hunting.
- By the use or possession of more than one gun for each person in the hunting party.
- From, or with the aid or use of, a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft, except that hunters with disabilities who have been issued a DNR permit to take game from a standing vehicle may use a stationary motor vehicle, or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat, power boat or other craft having a motor attached, any sailboat, or any floating craft or device of any kind propelled or towed by power or sail, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress ceased. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft while under power or until forward progress has ceased. A loaded gun shall not be transported in an automobile, aircraft, motorboat or sailboat, motor bike, tractor, ORV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- From a sinkbox. (A sinkbox is a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.)
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls, imitations of bird calls, bird sounds, or imitations of bird sounds. Use of electronically or mechanically operated decoys that do not produce bird sounds or calls is not prohibited.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Non-food imitations—for example, plastic corncocks—are not prohibited.

**IMPORTATION**—For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66 or contact Senior Resident Law Enforcement Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3800 Packard Road, Suite 160, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

**POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION LIMITS**—You may not possess or transport more than the daily limit of migratory birds at or between the place where taken and (1) your automobile or principal means of land transportation, or (2) your personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging, or (3) a commercial preservation facility, or a post office or common carrier facility, whichever one you arrive at first.

**TAGGING; FULLY FEATHERED WING**—No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- The hunter's signature.
- The hunter's address.
- The total number of birds involved by species.
- The dates such birds were killed.
- Current small game or sportsperson license number.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged. You may not transport any dressed or plucked bird unless one fully feathered wing is attached.

**SHIPMENT**—No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

**HUNTING OR HAWKING HOURS**—No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to hunting and hawking as prescribed. Reminder: During the hours closed to hunting, a hunter shall not possess a firearm or bow and arrow unless the firearm is unloaded in the barrel and all arrows are placed in a quiver.

**DAILY LIMIT**—No person shall take or attempt to take in any one day more than one daily limit.

**POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS**—Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**WANTON WASTE**—You may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve it and include it in your daily bag limit.

#### **DECOYS, BLINDS, RAISED PLATFORMS**

- You may not leave decoys set out between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. in waters of the Great Lakes and connecting waters, and lakes wholly enclosed by publicly owned lands.
- You may not erect or use a hunting blind on any public waters without permanently affixing to the exterior, in waterproof letters not less than three inches high, the name and address of the person who placed it there. Any unoccupied blind on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair may be used by the first person to occupy it each day.
- You may not leave any hunting blind or part thereof anchored or affixed to the bottomlands of any public waters within the state of Michigan prior to Aug. 15 or later than Jan. 16.
- You may not hunt waterfowl with a firearm from a raised platform except over submerged bottomlands. Blinds or platforms constructed over public waters must meet marking and removal requirements.
- You may not use or occupy a blind on the waters of the state that does not comply with marking and placement requirements.
- Contact the Plainwell DNR office (269-685-6851) regarding blind rules for Allegan County.

**FEDERAL REFUGES**—You may not possess or carry firearms or bow and arrow or hunt or kill any game during the open season for hunting and taking of migratory game birds on any national wildlife refuge when posted to prohibit unauthorized entry, except on that portion of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County on which goose hunting is authorized by a daily hunting permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**CAUTION**—More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, One Federal Dr., Fort Snelling, MN 55111, phone: 612-713-5320.

**DUAL VIOLATIONS**—Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

**REFERENCE**—Hunters should consult the actual federal regulations related to migratory game birds, which are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

## Falconry Season

Falconry is a permitted method of hunting migratory game birds. Rails, snipe, woodcock, geese, ducks, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken during the established firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units. In addition, ducks, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken statewide by falconry from Dec. 30 - Feb. 2, 2014 and March 1-10, 2014. The daily limit is three birds of single or combined species. Possession limit is nine birds.

## Safety Zones Around Buildings

No person may hunt or discharge a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence or cabin, or any barn or other building used in connection with a farm operation, without obtaining the written permission of the owner, renter or occupant of the property.

## Hunter Surveys

Some hunters are randomly selected each year to participate in state or federal harvest surveys, including collection of wings, tails and other body parts. Accurate and complete reporting is essential for biologists to estimate the annual harvest and impact of hunting. Please do your part to help manage waterfowl by responding to surveys. The knowledge gained permits selection of annual regulations that maximize hunting opportunities while perpetuating healthy waterfowl populations for future hunters.

## Waterfowl Hunting Closures

In Grand Traverse County, Boardman Lake and those waters of the Boardman River lying north of Airport Road and south of the 8th Street Bridge are closed to waterfowl hunting.

In Roscommon County, Mud Lake, Lake St. Helen and the South Branch of the Au Sable River connecting these two lakes are closed to public waterfowl hunting.

There are also other closed areas in the state. Each is posted to alert hunters that they are off-limits to hunting.

## Non-Toxic Shot Rules

Use of non-toxic shot is required statewide for all waterfowl hunting. When you hunt to take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, rails or snipe anywhere in the state of Michigan, you may not possess or use shotshells loaded with a material other than non-toxic steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix or other shot determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be non-toxic. Waterfowl hunters using muzzleloaders must also use USFWS-approved non-toxic shot. Shells loaded with lead shot may be used to hunt other small game species, including woodcock. NOTE: Check area rules and DNR website for non-toxic shot regulations for non-waterfowl hunting on managed waterfowl areas.

## Commercial Hunting Guides on Public Land

All commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are also required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits) or contact Casey Reitz at [reitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reitzc@michigan.gov) or (517) 373-9329 for more information.

Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a federal special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any NF office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; or Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

## Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the Recreational Trespass Act. You may float-hunt public lands open to hunting.

## Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt any migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement automatically is included with the purchase of every waterfowl license. Those hunting migratory birds without this endorsement may be fined.

The HIP survey, used to increase accuracy in estimating harvest in each state, is important for state and federal efforts to manage migratory birds. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: "Migratory Bird Hunter Survey—YES," is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. **There is no cost for this endorsement. If the license agent fails to ask you the HIP questions, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:**

- Ask the agent to reissue the license.
- Visit the DNR e-license website at [www.mdnr-elicense.com](http://www.mdnr-elicense.com) and go to the small game category, then choose the free "HIP Survey Migratory Bird" item.
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center.

## Leg-Band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded and/or neck-collared ducks and geese harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes and contribution to the state harvest from different breeding grounds. To report bands go online to [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov), call 800-327-BAND or write USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4037.

**REPORT ALL POACHING**  
**Call 800-292-7800**  
**TO REPORT VIOLATIONS**

Thank you for purchasing a Michigan hunting license. Your hunting license dollars help restore and improve habitats for wildlife species, advance research on wildlife and wildlife-borne diseases, foster programs that help ensure access for public hunting, support hunter safety education and much more. We encourage you to keep hunting and to share your experiences with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's hunting heritage alive for future generations.



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached over \$238 million.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453) and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program activities, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.